

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-15 will be pending.

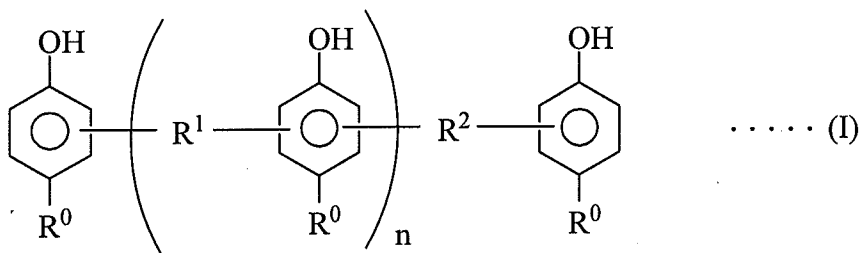
Claim 1 has been amended with respect to each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment, and Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

**Response to Rejection based on Vrendenburgh et al.**

Claims 1, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious under U.S. Patent No. 3,674,723 to Vrendenburgh et al.

The present claims recite a rubber composition characterized by compounding a rubber component consisting of natural rubber and/or polyisoprene rubber with a phenolic resin represented by the following formula (I):



In formula (I), R<sup>0</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a methylol group; and each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is an arylene group, an aralkylene group, a cycloalkenylene group or a cycloalkadienylene group; and n is 0-10.

Applicants respectfully submit that Vredenburgh et al. do not disclose a compound corresponding to the compound of formula (1) of the present claims. Rather, Vredenburgh et al.

teach a para-tertiary-butylphenol-aldehyde novolak resin consisting essentially of recurring groups A and B, in which the number of carbon between two phenol groups is 1. See, abstract and col. 1, lines 22-42. Accordingly, because Claim 1 recites that each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is an arylene group, an aralkylene group, a cycloalkenylene group or a cycloalkadienylene group, Applicants respectfully submit that Vrendenburgh et al. do not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

**Response to Rejections based on Yamamoto et al.**

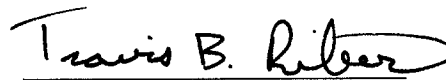
Claims 1, 4, 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious under U.S. Patent No. 4,703,086 to Yamamoto et al.

As discussed above, Claim 1 recites that each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> is an arylene group, an aralkylene group, a cycloalkenylene group or a cycloalkadienylene group. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamamoto et al. do not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention, and Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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